

Approved

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH
DISABILITIES**

**August 4, 2006
Indiana Department of Education
Indianapolis, IN**

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Christina Endres, Karol Farrell, David Geeslin, Cathleen Hardy Hansen, Kathy Mears, Steve Tilden

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Stephanie Beasley, Dawn Downer, James Hammond, Bessie Henson, Becky Kirk, John Nally, David Schmidt, Pete Bisbecos, Julie Swaim, Jane Swiss, Bret Lewis, Gary Bates, Marcia Johnson, Mary Ramos; Rose Black, Cynthia Diamond, Martha Farris, Sarah Renner, Cheryl Shearer

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEL) STAFF PRESENT:

Paul Ash, Nina Brahm, Becky Reynolds, Brenda Alyea

GUESTS:

Sharon Knoth; Bill Dreibelbis, R.I.S.E. Special Services; Jennifer Scott, R.I.S.E. Special Services; Susan Albrecht, Virtual Special Education Cooperative-Ball State University; Margie Labelle, MSD of Lawrence Township; Megan Ahlers, MSD of Lawrence Township; Rebecca Kirby, IPIN; Rich Burden, IN*SOURCE

VISITORS

Louie Lord Nelson, R.A.I.S.E., Inc.; Liz Freeman, Autism Coalition; Greg Dietz Harcourt/Psychcorp

INTERPRETERS:

Larry Leonard, Mary Alka

MEETING

K. Farrell chaired the meeting in D. Schmidt's absence. The meeting was called to order at 9:52 a.m. State Advisory Council (SAC) members introduced themselves.

MINUTES

S. Tilden referred to the misspelling of his last name. The correction was noted. The minutes from the meeting on June 2, 2006, were then approved as a correct document.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PRESENTATIONS

P. Ash informed SAC that the presenters were adding schools and that the presentations needed to take place before the start of school. Kevin McDowell, Legal Council for the Indiana Department of Education, informed SAC that a quorum was not required.

BALL STATE VIRTUAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Dr. Susan Albrecht presented for the Virtual Sp. Ed.

Dr. S. Albrecht introduced herself and explained how the virtual cooperative is formed is formed of 28 schools currently and they are adding 7 schools this next school year. Dr. S. Albrecht updated SAC with regard to adding staff since the November 4, 2006, SAC presentation. She indicated that they are more prepared for 925 to 950 students in their schools this year. Dr. S. Albrecht said that they have launched a general education initiative with all schools. Dr. S. Albrecht added that they finished staff training with all staff for specialized education.

S. Tilden questioned any challenges that they have had and what in the future. Dr. S. Albrecht responded that the initial challenge was taking over the position of director this past year and that the first biggest challenge was getting the budget to be manageable. Procedure and policy was another challenge. Dr. S. Albrecht informed SAC that a new handbook is being revised. The revised manual will be posted on website next month. Dr. S. Albrecht stated that they have set up the ICAN model and working with Dawn McGrath. Dr. S. Albrecht She is most pleased that they have established credibility with their schools. The schools have been honest with Dr. S. Albrecht with problems they are having and she has been able to work with them. Dr. S. Albrecht said that they have developed a tiered model of support but there is also a lower level of support for staff and administrative. With these pillars they can be more supportive with the schools that join the cooperative. K. Farrell asked with regard of the December 1, 2005 data collected if the school appeared to see any growth and the identification of

special needs students. Dr. S. Albrecht indicated that she had only looked at the past year and current year. She said that there has been about a 40 -45 % growth because they have been adding new schools, thus adding extra students and that they are identifying special needs students more now mostly in the 3rd and 4th grade. K. Farrell asked if there was a transition plan. Dr. S Albrecht said that they are working with the teacher coordinators and one of the teachers is working on transition. K. Farrell asked if this was a module for training and also with regard to tiered support or if it is one size fits all for each child. Dr. S. Albrecht said no; they are trying to target children that they see having difficulties and are tracking these children and keeping track of their progress. Dr. S. Albrecht explained the cooperative's tiered level plan.

K. Farrell stated that she was impressed with the budget. Dr. S. Albrecht said that they are working with picking up costs for the new schools and students. N. Brahm asked if there is any Part B money for the tiered plan. Dr. S. Albrecht indicated that she is not distinguishing whether this is for general education or special education. She added that if H. Binder tells her she needs to separate this out then she will work with him for these special education services. The staff serves as an integrated model.

The plan was recommended to be approved.

Dr. Albrecht offered a copy of signature page. SAC responded that they did not need to see the copy at this time.

MSD LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

M. Labelle explained that MSD of Lawrence Township was adding Hope Academy, related to Fairbanks Hospital. They have worked very close to with MSD of Lawrence Township. It is in addition to the school that was currently working with them. They will still have a teacher at the hospital. They will be working with children in the hospital program to allow them to continue with the high school program. The charter school's role is for those students who are no longer in crisis but not yet ready to go back to their home school. That school will be Hope Academy. The second charter is Early College High School and it is a mayoral represented charter. M. Labelle indicated that MSD of Lawrence Township will provide special education and related services to students with disabilities.

K. Farrell asked how many students with special needs are in the schools and a plan for transitional services. M. Labelle said that at the time there was only one student. However, Hope Academy is opening the door with 30 students this year and the academy has five students who have special needs.

M. Labelle added that they are working with Ivy Tech to get additional transitional services and that they are doing a child find to identify children in need.

K. Mears asked why Saint Mary's Preschool was not listed under Section B. M. Labelle indicated that she used the public school/private school directory from the Indiana Department of Education. It probably should be listed as it is in her district.

The plan was recommended to be approved.

M. Labelle submitted the signature page of the plan.

R.I.S.E. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

P. Ash stated that hard copies of the plan were mailed to SAC. P. Ash said that there were changes to the mailed copies and that the new copies were available for review.

B. Dreibelbis, Director of R.I.S.E., introduced himself and Jennifer Scott, Assistant Director. B. Dreibelbis stated that Decatur Discovery Academy is being added to the comprehensive plan. It was organized by Decatur Township and recognized by the Mayor's group of charter schools. B. Dreibelbis stated that there are 97 students enrolled in the school, 12 of which have disabilities. He added that any related services will be provided by R.I.S.E. B. Dreibelbis stated that the school board has agreed to accept Decatur Discovery Academy. B. Dreibelbis anticipates more charter schools in the future.

K. Farrell asked about enrollment for Decatur High School. B. Dreibelbis said he did not have that information at this time. K. Farrell inquired about budget and number predictions. B. Dreibelbis indicated that as with the other high schools in the cooperative they will have to watch the enrollment at the school and continue to plan for those increases as they arise.

The plan was recommended to be approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audience comments, if any)

No comments were made.

ARTICLE 7 UPDATE

P. Ash stated that unofficial copies of the regs are available on line but are 1,705 pages. P. Ash referred to the Federal Register website where the regs are located. P. Ash explained that the first section is comments, the next 20% is the actual regs, and that the last section consists of samples of the national IEP and Notice of Parent Rights and Prior Written Notice. P. Ash said that he did not know if the notice will be a mandated form. P. Ash said that OSEP had several separate calls with different audiences and that OSEP is putting together

trainings for these new requirements and forms. They are working with the format for easier access. P. Ash indicated that there will probably be different versions of side-by-sides. The implementation date is 60-days upon being published in the Federal Register with the exception of those sections which have other specifically-stated implementation dates.

N. Brahm updated SAC on IDEA 2004 Issues. SAC discussed the following issues:

- Transition to Adult Life
- Evaluation Timeline
- Evaluation for Students with Learning Disabilities
- Preschool Hours and Teacher Ratios
- Private Schools

ARTICLE 7 COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Visitors had no comments.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:20 PM.